

DRAFT – 8/23/18
For Review and Adoption by the Council at the August 23, 2018 Meeting

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
Thursday, July 26, 2018
Holiday Inn, Granada/Hermosa Room
300 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., July 26, 2018, by Chair Randy Fiorini.

2. Roll Call – Establish a Quorum (Water Code §85210.5)

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following Councilmembers were present: Frank Damrell, Maria Mehranian, Susan Tatayon, Randy Fiorini.

Ken Weinberg and Mike Gatto arrived during Item 7. Skip Thomson was absent.

3. There was no Closed Executive Session this month.

4. Reconvene Open Session – Not Applicable

5. Adoption of the June 28, 2018 Meeting Summary (Action Item)

Motion: Offered by Tatayon, second by Mehranian - Approved the July 26, 2018 meeting summary.

Vote: 4/0 - Damrell, Mehranian, Tatayon, Fiorini (unanimous pass) and the motion was adopted.

The video showing this motion and vote can be found on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-07-26>. 00:01:41.

6. Chair's Report (Information Item)

The Chair asked if any Councilmembers had anything to report. No Councilmembers had anything to report.

The video of the Chair's Report can be found on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-07-26>. 00:01:59.

7. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson noted that the following letter regarding Delta Plan coordination and implementation was provided to the Councilmembers:

- Comment letter from Deputy Executive Officer Jeff Henderson to Sacramento County re: Final South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report. The letter can be found on the Council's website here: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/outgoing-correspondence>.

Ms. Pearson said that on July 20 Solano County filed a certification of consistency for the Rush Ranch Lower Spring Branch Creek and Suisun Hill Hollow Tidal Connections Project. The certification of consistency for Solano County can be found on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/covered-actions>.

Ms. Pearson also noted that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has identified the WaterFix project as a covered action, and has posted a draft certification of consistency with the Delta Plan on its WaterFix website. The draft is currently under a 10-day public review period. The Council will send out a public notice once the certification is filed.

The video of the Executive Officer's Report can be found on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-07-26>. 00:02:15.

7a. Legal Update (Information Item)

Chief Counsel Bethany Pane provided an ex parte communications notice to the Councilmembers. Ms. Pane requested that Councilmembers and staff refrain from any communications with outside parties regarding the draft WaterFix certification of consistency throughout proceedings on the project.

The video of the ex parte notice can be found on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-07-26>. 00:04:58.

7c. Legislative Update (Action Item)

Legislative and Policy Advisor Ryan Stanbra provided a Legislative Update, which can be found on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-july-26-2018-item-7b-legislative-report>.

Mr. Stanbra stated that the Legislature is on recess in July and he provided a status update for the following bills:

- On Aug. 6th AB 2348 and AB 2441 will be heard before the legislature. Council staff will speak to the Council's position on the measures at their respective hearings.
- Congressional reauthorization for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is due July 31. This item is related to the Risk Reduction chapter of the Delta Plan.
- Councilmembers Judge Frank Damrell and Vice Chair Susan Tatayon will appear before the Senate Rules Committee this month to reconfirm for their second term on Council.

Councilmembers discussed the level of involvement the Council would have on AB 2470 (proposing an Invasive Species Council of California). Council staff said they would initiate coordination if the bill passes. Councilmembers also discussed concerns about AB 2649 (Water rights: water management).

There was no action taken on the Legislative report during the meeting.

The video of the Legislative Report can be found on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-07-26>. 00:09:50.

7d. Quarterly Contract Report (Information Item)

The report is available on the Council's website at:

<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-july-26-2018-item-7c-quarterly-contract-report>.

The video of the Quarterly Contract Report can be found on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-07-26>. 00:19:44.

7e. Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment (Information Item)

Ms. Pearson introduced Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor Ron Melcer and Chief Deputy Executive Officer Jessica Law to discuss updates on the Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment. Mr. Melcer provided an overview of the amendment process, the amendment blueprint, and the project's timeline.

The memo is available on the Council's website at:

<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-july-26-2018-item-7d-delta-plan-ecosystem-amendment>. The presentation for this item is available on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-july-26-2018-item-7d-presentation>.

Councilmembers and staff discussed a range of topics, including species management, natural functioning flows, terminology choices, objectives for the plan, how the plan would identify opportunities to improve best practices on agricultural land, and reasons for initiating the Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment.

Tom Zuckerman, CDWA, provided public comment regarding the involvement of the private landowners. Mr. Zuckerman said he appreciated Chair Fiorini's acknowledgment of the concerns of private landowners. Mr. Zuckerman was concerned about flooding tidal wetlands for avian and terrestrial ecosystems. Mr. Zuckerman highlighted that these areas rely on levees and viable agriculture.

The video of the Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment can be found on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-07-26>. 00:20:52.

8. Lead Scientist's Report (Information Item)

Chair Fiorini invited Dr. John Callaway to present the Lead Scientist's Report. The report covered a summary of two articles; *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology*

(examining the effects of land cover type and structure on evapotranspiration in wetland and agricultural sites in the Delta), and *Estuaries and Coasts* (examining the relationship between habitat features and fish communities in the Delta), a summary of a brown bag seminar on the open data movement. Amanda Wasserman presented the By the Numbers Report.

The Lead Scientist's Report is available on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-july-26-2018-item-8-lead-scientists-report>. The By the Numbers presentation is posted on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-july-26-2018-item-8-numbers-report>.

The video of the Lead Scientist's Report can be found on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-07-26>. 01:03:26.

9. Delta Independent Science Board (Information Item)

Chair Fiorini introduced panelists Dr. Steve Brandt and Dr. Tracy Collier from the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB). Dr. Brandt (Chair of the board) discussed the Delta ISB's recent accomplishments and current activities including development of the *Water Quality: Chemical Contaminants and Nutrients* in the Delta review and the *Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment Synthesis Papers* review. Dr. Collier provided an overview of the *Water Quality: Chemical Contaminants and Nutrients* in the Delta review. This review includes information sources, findings, and recommended actions to improve water quality in the Delta.

Councilmembers discussed the importance of using the term "non-native species," measuring impaired health in Delta species, and different types of monitoring. Councilmember Weinberg stated concerns about chemicals of emerging concern being detected downstream of the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. Chair Fiorini suggested the Council staff respond to the recommendations of the Water Quality report and highlight actions the Council can take.

The staff report for this item is available on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-july-26-2018-item-9-delta-independent-science-board>. The presentations are available on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-july-26-2018-item-9-presentation-dr-steve-brandt> and <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-july-26-2018-item-9-presentation-dr-tracy-coller>.

The video of the Delta Independent Science Board Report can be found on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-07-26>. 01:29:45.

10. Data to Decision-making: Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP) (Information Item)

Program Manager Lauren Hastings introduced the topic and panel: Cathy Marcinkevage, California WaterFix Branch Chief for NMFS, Sam Luoma, former Delta Lead Scientist, research ecologist with the John Muir Institute of the Environment at UC Davis, and Jason Peltier, Coalition for a Sustainable Delta. The staff report is available on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-july-26-2018-item-10-data-decision-making>. The attachment to the staff report is available on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-july-26-2018-item-10-attachment-1>. The presentations are available on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-july-26-2018-item-10-presentation-csmp>.

Ms. Hastings provided a history and a series of questions for the Council and panel to discuss. Councilmembers and panelists discussed how the CSAMP process had resolved difficult scientific issues and the challenges it faced. The Council also discussed ways to enhance CSAMP, its goals and value, and its involvement in adaptive management programs.

The video of the Delta Independent Science Board Report can be found on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-07-26>. 02:08:31.

11. Public Comment

Mr. Peltier provided public comment regarding Dr. Callaway's report on *Estuaries and Coasts*, noting the relationship between habitat features and fish communities in the Delta. Mr. Zuckerman said he had seen a report on aquatic vegetation being twice as pervasive as last year. He also offered to organize a field trip to help provide context for invasive species. He invited the Council to attend the upcoming Pear Fair event in Courtland (July 28).

12. Preparation for Next Council Meeting – Discuss (a) expected agenda items; (b) new work assignments for staff; (c) requests of other agencies; (d) other requests from Councilmembers; and (e) confirm next meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.